MME

FREE

No. 7

February 2003

MEDWAY & MAIDSTONE EXPRESS

[UP-C DOWN-C LEFT-C RIGHT-C ABC+START]
Bull & Gate, Kentish Town
Wednesday 8th January
£4 with flyer
Officially ROCKED!
"The first thing that strikes me about upCdownC is their ability to push down barriers of run-of-the-mill rock bands to create a genuinely individual and intricately creative sound."
Live review - FakeDIY.co.uk
"Pulling you up to a grand musical height, like it's building up to explode right in your face – and then it drops you from that very great height into a pit of silence."
Fake DIY on previously released Z-More
Debut album "Taken From The Evil To Come" for release in the new year
info@upcdownc.com | www.upcdownc.com

INSIDE...

band reviews *gig & club listings*

tell tale signs of a great band

contacts list *music news

Hey gorgeous!

January started with an inspiring, awesome gig at the Bull & Gate with Upcdownc. A must see for anyone wanting to hear something truly original, see pages 4 & 5 for a live review. The Labels & Clea played to a small but appreciative crowd at the Command House (see page 6) and Abinger Drive & Who Kinky supplied an interesting evening of entertainment, see pages 8 & 9 for the full story. Cool Kit is back this month with the Yamaha electric drum kit, you'll want one.
Next month we'll be joined by 80's boy's view of the music world in his monthly journal and a poetry / weird shit corner from Ant, the cheeky monkey!
MM2K are now accepting CDs from bands who want to play Parklife 2003 and the search for the best has started for the Beacon Court's Battle of the Bands. Phew...
Lots going on, read, absorb, act on it!!

Big Love,
Nixta (Ed)

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MME TRAVEL

"I managed to get my grubby paws on your Dec issue, can I get a regular copy? I'm stuck in the supposedly 'Great' Yarmouth, Norfolk and in a band called Feral Creatures.....Roach :)"

Yeh!! An MME reader in Norwich, 115 miles away. How did he get it? "James passed it to me in a pub"

Eh?!

If you see a copy far from its home, let us know - we wanna see it travel . . . . .

»Local music charity MM2K is now accepting applications from individual performers and bands for this summer's **Parklife festival** in Gillingham. The organisers are **looking for bands**, DJs, stallholders, entertainers, people who would like to run creative workshops and business' interested in sponsoring the event. MM2K are particularly keen to hear diverse music, all material must be original and of good sound quality. Musicians need to send a short biography, contact details and three tracks to MM2K, PO Box 242, Gillingham, Kent. ME7 4BZ. Visit the website www.medwaymusic.net or email the Chairman Jay Allen with any questions on jayallen@medwaymusic.net

»Six Stage Suicide took a trip to Radio 1 this week to hand deliver a demo requested by the Producer of the Rock Show! Mary Ann Hobgoblin will be getting the demo!
The band are also currently in discussion with a video producer regarding the making of a video for Pretty Dead! Storylines are being thrown around at the moment and they are dark! Watch this space.....

»The second night of the 45 club is coming to the Tap n Tin on Saturday 22nd Feb. The Crimea (formerly The Crocketts) will be playing, supported by El Padre. Tickets are £5 and are available from Sounds Perfect and Loco Records.
Should be a good one, get your ticket while you still can!

»Refurbishment of the Beacon Court in Gillingham is due to be completed sometime in April. Capacity will be increased to over 250 and the venue will benefit from an in-house PA system. To kick start the new improved boozer, Simon Olly has asked MME to inform you that the Battle of the Bands 2003 is now on.
36 bands will take part in the quest for the top local band over 12 heats. Your band will need to perform half hour sets of ORIGINAL music, absolutely no covers allowed! The winning band will take home a minimum of £1000, with three winners up receiving £100. Contact Mick at Magic Disc Records asap on 01634 281596 for more details.

»The local music scene has not been recognised by the local press as much as it should but things are changing. MME began with the sole purpose to get people talking and sharing ideas because everyone involved with the magazine is mad about music. Laura Patrick is also enthusiastic about the local scene and is the latest Kent Messenger recruit, working on the Big Night Out in the Medway Today. Laura told us, "There's always been a really strong and thriving music scene in Medway, which is seeing something of a resurgance. You only have to look at the popularity of something like Parklife to see how much it means to people."
Like ourselves, she spent her teens watching local bands at venues such as The Old Ash Tree. Nowadays pubs are stricter and quite rightly, have to turn young people away from fear of losing their licenses. Unfortunately this means the 'underage', the very people who are forming the beginnings of the 'future' sound, have no place to play or watch live music. "What this place needs is a dedicated live music venue... somewhere younger people can go and get caught up in the buzz" says Laura.
While individuals and organisations such as MM2K work towards this, we need to keep sharing ideas, which is where you and I come in. Keep your news coming into us and let Laura know of your band's plans and gig dates. Send biogs/gig dates/demos to: Laura Patrick, Editorial, Medway Today, 385 High Street, Chatham, Kent ME4 4PQ, call her on 01634 821326 or email lpatrick@thekmgroup.co.uk

Upcdownc @ The Bull & Gate

Reminiscent of a school outing, a coach was arranged to carry us from the Medway towns to our destination, a journey which despite the small hitch of a **wrong turn in Camden** and some dodgy sport channel on the radio part the way up, was a good one and helped build our anticipation of the night's event (there was even a party going on in the coach toilet !)

Before things got underway we were subjected to two other acts on stage, the first 'Kirk ' (SHITE!) had a singer who's voice was so god-damn annoying we didn't even give the second band 'Fast Food' a chance - instead preferring a few pints, a few smokes and getting some of the Medway boys, who had also come up, to *stage a fight outside in the snow for our entertainment* (we got photo's thanks to Amy!)

Dave Garth-dad of Chris and champion / manager of the band (who is also on the MM2K committee - those people get everywhere!) asks us before the band take stage if we want an idea of what they sound like as we've never had the pleasure of seeing or hearing them before, but we politely decline and instead choose to take them as we find them.

And how do we find them?..... fuckin' amazing !

The first thing that surprises you when ▲C▼C take the stage is the fact that the band consists of 2 drummers, 3 guitarists and no singer (apparently it's not always this way) and the astonishing wall of sound that they are able to produce.

They initially remind me of one of my old personal favourites Ride, around the time of 'Leave Them All Behind' (one of the classic songs of the early nineties) - and there certainly isn't anything wrong with that, but then other comparisons soon come flooding forth.

In the space of the two songs we get tonight (yes only two were performed, but they were a tad longer than your usual two and a half minute pop song and equivalent to a whole album's worth of diversity). I pleasingly note down to myself that I can hear comparisons to bands such as Slowdive (peers of Ride in the shoe-gazing scene of the early 90's), at times, the Doors (but without the fat hippy moaning away), Radiohead (in one of their brilliant instrumental breaks), Spirtualized (particularly elements from 'Floating In Space'), a touch of The Stone Roses 'Second Coming' album (the intro of 'Breaking Into Heaven') and even two of my current favourites Lemon Jelly and British Sea Power which is incredibly odd as neither sounds remotely like each other!

In addition to the amazing sound , we get an element of **Radiohead-esque stage antics** where at one point one of the guitarists Chris starts using a bow to play and then lending it to one of the drummers, takes the opportunity to almost trash his instrument but appears to hold back at the last moment. Perhaps it's an idea that he takes a look at the 'Tell Tale Signs Of A Great Band' article in this month's issue!

To have a further idea of what ▲C▼C sound like if you haven't yet had the pleasure, think about the best intro's to the best songs that you haven't yet heard and you sort of get the picture.

They finish as well as they start, with perfect precision - and those of us there to witness things are blown away and clearly longing for more, but the night didn't finish there, as shortly after the band departed, so did most of the audience in the venue and the band Revered that followed were none too impressed with this.One aggressive altercation later and ▲C▼C depart pride intact and able to feel smug that tonight they blew every other band away on every level.

The journey back saw us again reminiscing on the coach about our school days and us claiming the back seat and ride all the way home pretending that we were hard (rather than just **very very smashed**). On arrival in Chatham we departed and headed home, some of us clutching CD's of the band - eager to relive the night's experience as soon as possible. If you have yet to see ▲C▼C make the effort and go - you owe it to yourself.

Martin, up-c down-c left-c right-c abc + start....

"Thanks to everybody for coming up to see us at the Bull & Gate, making our efforts to crack the music scene in London worthwhile. We wouldn't be anywhere if it weren't for the support and efforts of our local following, families and friends. It's clear from the willingness we've seen for people to help us reach our goals that everybody is just as tired as we are of a music scene that continues to remain pathetically stagnant, devoid of any real creativity and originality. It's tremendous to see that our efforts to change this in some small way have not gone unnoticed, and as long as this kind of fantastic support is there, we have a reason to continue. Long live the Medway Guitar Army."

Visit their new improved Website upcdownc.com

The Labels and Clea @ Command House 10 Jan 03

Now I've heard **Clea** sing before when she joined **El Padre** a couple of months back. It's no surprise then that the majority of the band are here tonight to see her in the support slot for **The Labels**.

Clea takes the stage in an unassuming manner with just a microphone and her guitar for company, from the moment she strikes her first chord and sings her first note, every person in the room is silenced in awe.

At times throughout her set, she appears almost embarrassed to be here but my God she shouldn't, for this woman has one of the most astonishingly powerful voices that I've witnessed and **sings as if she has a century of worries on her shoulders**. Think **Nina Simone** or **Tracy Chapman** (circa first album) and you get the idea.

Occassionally we get a little banter and some ad hoc poetry and she states, "If you lot weren't here I'd be sitting at home in my room, or in my mother's room....oh I'd better play a song", she later confesses "Sorry, I had to stop there as I just burped". Andy - **MME** Cartoonist and artiste extroadinaire (who returns next month) proclaims **Clea** as the best thing he's heard in months. Agreed.

Towards the end of the set we get a change of guitar and the promise of two more songs and even at this late stage she's looking at us as if she's wondering what the hell we're doing here. It's as if we're intruding on something private, but without a doubt we're all glad that we are.

She finishes with'Santiago' after a request by the **El Padre** lads and departs on a high, leaving us buzzing. Absolutely glorious!

The first thing that strikes you about **The Labels** is that they can't pull more than the smallest handful of people to see them. This is unsurprising however when you find out that this four piece are from the Broadstairs area and have never played locally before. That said, it is to our bewilderment that they charge people to get in (their choice, but not the pub's as they've held many free nights). Perhaps not the smartest move if you're an unknown band trying to make a name for yourself. Still, it's their night - those of us that were there were given a pleasant enough evening.

The band started, quite rightly, by thanking **Clea** and proceeded to plough their way through their set. The opening tracks are ok but from the fourth, the band come into their own. The track '0-60', which they announce is about a fairground ride, the lead guitarist performs the most delightful riffs I've heard and the other three band members produce some excellent vocals in the chorus.

With a funky bass and drums intro into the next track which leads into a swirl of guitars, things have really started to move along.

Some of their songs remind me of bands such as **The Libertines** and **Supergrass** when in psychedelic mode. The drummer impressed us with his Animal from The Muppets mascot tied to his drum kit and towards the end 'Justice to the believers' he almost gets his head moving in the style of the drumming god!

In the last section of their set, they prove that they have **a good stock of well crafted songs** with a mixture of Libertines-esque numbers, a tune with a riff stolen straight out of a Hives song (there's nowt wrong with that) and another that pleasingly reminds me of the Who's substitiute.

Unfortunately, as the crowd is so small, it is incredibly noticeable when some of the few who are watching, decide to leave. **"We've only got two more to go!"** plead the band, those that did leave miss some good tunes. The band finish in a fury of noise and express grateful thanks to those that did stay and enjoy. They depart with an exchange of pleasantness with the **El Padre** chaps and safe in the knowledge that they'll be back again soon (Friday 21st @ Command House). We just hope that next time more will be there to see it!

Let us know what you think of the bands that you see. They always appreciate constructive criticism - yeah right!

It is now the turn of the guitarists out there to read and learn. Unfortunately for them however, greatness comes at the highest price, even greater than last month where we taught you that to be a great frontman you had to die, as to be a great guitarist you must destroy your instrument! Of course the manner in which you do this can differ wildly, and therefore so can your level of greatness but perhaps it's wise to start with the original destroyer - the prevailer of the power cord and occasional internet user, Pete Townsend of The Who.

Long before the days when old Pete was signing up to dodgy websites for 'research' (and by the way is it just me or has anyone else now started wondering about some of his back catalogue titles - 'The Kid's Are Alright', 'Fiddle About', 'See Me, Feel Me') he was the master of guitar destruction, carrying out the task with great eagerness and ferocity. Nobody was safe to be near him, where without a moments notice he would rip off his guitar and proceed to smash it on the floor or through the nearest expensive amp handy. The public loved it, and he's still a legend for it now.

Others have emulated him since. Many involved with the original punk movement of the late 70's launched their careers by trashing their guitars (well they couldn't play them so what else could they do) and this further carried over to later bands such as Nirvana in the late 80's / early 90's. Indeed Kurt Cobain was so great and accomplished at trashing his guitar he actually also learned how to fix them in his early days when he wasn't yet the rich rock god he was to become and couldn't afford to buy new ones.

It is perhaps one man that shines above all others in the claim for greatness, however, and surely he is the only one who you should aspire to for true greatness, as the person who was able to demonstrate the most extreme destruction of his guitar was Jimmy Hendrix.

Everyone knows how much Hendrix worshippsed the guitar, so it is perhaps fitting that when destruction was needed he moved things onto a higher

plane - choosing not to simply smash it a-la Townsend or Cobain, but to set fire to it and watch it burn on stage.

The sight of Hendrix kneeling in front of his guitar fanning the flames of it's destruction, is one of the great iconic moments of the last century and one that you must successfully carry out to prove your greatness.

Take note then kids, all it will take are some matches and some lighter fluid and you can make it to true greatness. Does anyone need a light?

We've decided that the local accolade of the greatest frontman, in terms of suffering for their art is **Marf from Six Stage Suicide**. Smash it up!

Abinger Drive & Who Kinky @ Command House

A good size crowd turned up to the Vaults to see tonight's line up, I must say I wouldn't jump at the chance to repeat this experience any time soon. I'm not one to bad mouth bands because at the end of the day I take my hat off to anyone who has the guts and the drive to get up there and bare their soul in a display of musical ability. BUT, I cannot say I enjoyed Abinger Drive when I didn't, so I won't.

These guys seem like a really nice bunch of lads and they each have a lot of talent with their respective instruments but I just do not like what they do with them! Their music reminds me of the eighties, it's the kind of stuff my parents would hum along to on Radio 2. Yes it's in key, it flows, it's precise and the harmonies are lovely, but it sounds so goddamn safe and cosy!

They kick off with 'Day Train', hang on, this is the Top Gear theme tune isn't it? It's quite catchy but you'd be kicking yourself if you had this stuck in your head. 'Don't make me hang on' is groovy in parts and a bass solo stood out for me, good work! Again though, I was so close to texting my mum to spread the word of the easy listening gang.

'Goodall's on his way' is played and by this point I am ready to leave. There hasn't been much interaction between the band and the crowd up till now and the band are looking serious. I am tempted to shake them, tell them how good they are, technically speaking, perhaps even buy them many drinks, anything to make them let rip! Get off the fence – play badly – scream unidentifiable ramblings – just stop being so bloody cheesy!

The guy on the Korg has a permanent grin on his face, he's enjoying this (which is the important thing?) I'm chuffed for him.

Some people are dancing, are they enjoying this? I soon realise that they are doing the kind of dance you do after a few too many at a wedding reception, case closed I would argue, they're inspiring people to dance like spazzes! I don't mean to be harsh, I am nice – honest. To check it wasn't my hormones attacking Abinger Drive I asked around for other's thoughts. They were described by one onlooker as a "modern day Bon Jovi" (not too sure!) 'stagnant' said Dave, 'they've no energy'. To be fair, one guy I spoke to said he quite liked them. I am sure there must have been others.

Martin said they were similar in style to The Rembrandts, we were expecting them to break into the theme tune from Friends at any moment. Unfortunately, this is one of the reasons that we were out and not in on a Friday night!

"That's the trouble with love", they sing, "Oh no", we sigh.

Singer Amu becomes more animated for 'Eddie Baggio', more fun to watch at least.

Please tell me if you have seen these guys and like them... I don't want to hear from their best friends or their mum!

For tonight's set, the beautifully named Who Kinky kick off with The Stereophonic's 'Vegas Two Times' which to us is either: a) a good move as a well placed cover (even at the start of a set) can get people hooked and appreciate where you are coming from, or b) a bad move as it means that you haven't got many (or any) good songs of your own..... With the start of the next song (a cover of AC/DC's 'All Night Long') we unfortunately get a hint of which one of these it is to be.

It's not that the first two songs aren't done well, they sound extremely faithful to the originals – it's the fact that to me that's just karaoke and no better than the Pop Idol rubbish that has been

polluting the television and the charts over the past year or so. If a band wants to do covers, surely they should either be sparse throughout a set (as signposts for where a band is coming from or perhaps wants to be thought of) or done with exceptional creativity and style (see either the great Many Colours or Raiders of the Lost Groove for pointers on

this). By the third song (Reef's 'Naked'), I'm getting a little bored, but for the fourth we finally and thankfully get an original Who Kinky number in the form of track 'Sitting Pretty'. While it's not a great track, it's certainly not terrible and I start to think what the band may be able to do if they crafted their own songs rather than emulating those of their hero's. The next two songs also appear to be originals and are of a similar vein – think Led Zep, with a touch of Guns n' Roses, but unfortunately they are also lacking, although this may be because they are putting them up for consideration alongside some near perfect copies of some really great songs.

It is no surprise that the band soon return to the cover versions – this time in the form of Hendrix's 'Fire', as with the other covers performed tonight, the song is done well but too faithful to the original to have a greater impact than it might have had.

Following another self penned track called 'Swing' and another Hendrix cover 'Foxy Lady', we are treated to a drum solo that accurately gets described as "the biggest masturbation in history". It's also around this time that Mike from local band Scarab gives the quote of the night when he states "It's really good, it's really 80's", although this may actually reveal more about him than it does Who Kinky (sorry Mike, had to be said, I'll shout you a pint the next time I see you !)

A few songs later is another original 'Bloodshot Eyes', their best of the night. Announcing their last song as 'Angel' by Westlife, unfortunately this proves to be untrue (they should have done it – at least it would have been different to the original and perhaps would have shown how they can adapt a song to suit their needs!) and the band depart with another track straight from AC/DC's set. They come back one last time for one more Karaoke song, this time with 'Aeroplane' from the Chillis.

It's a shame that a band with such obvious musical ability aren't able to show their own songwriting talent, preferring to rely on other peoples. We've got no doubt that you are good musicians guys, but sometimes that's just not enough. Live a little.

'Drive' by incubus

Standard Tuning
HRM - Natural Harmonic on Indicated Fret
/ - Repeat
^ - Bend

Intro

```
|---3-3-3-xx--0-0--0-0-0-xx--0-0-|
|---0-0-0-xx--3-3--0-0-0-xx--0-0-|
|---0-0-0-xx--0-0--0-0-0-xx--0-0-|
|---2-2-2-xx--2-2--2-2-2-xx--2-2-|
|-2- 2-2-2-xx--2-2-3- 3-3-3-xx-0---|
|-0--0-0-0-0-xx----0-0-0-----------|
```

Verse

```
|---3-3--xx--0---0-0-0-xx--0-0-|
|---0-0-xx--3---0-0-0-xx--0-0-|
|---0-0-xx-  0---0-0-0-xx--0-0-|
|---2-2--xx--2---2-2--xx--2-2-|
|--2-2-2--xx--2-3-3-3--xx------|
|---0-0-xx--0-----------------|
```

Adlib on the rhythm of each chord

Pre-Chorus

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|-0-/-/-/
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Sometimes I feel the fear of uncertainty stinging clear
And I cant help but ask myself how much
I'll let the fear take the wheel and steer
It's driven me before, it seems to have a vague
Haunting mass appeal
Lately I'm beginning to find that I should be the one behind the wheel

Whatever tomorrow brings, I'll be there
With open arms and open eyes yeah
Whatever tomorrow brings, I'll be there, I'll be there

So if I decide to waiver my chance to be one of the hive
Will I choose water over wine and hold my own and drive, oh oh
It's driven me before, it seems to be the way
That everyone else gets around
Lately, I'm beginning to find that when I drive myself, my light is found

Whatever tomorrow brings, I'll be there
With open arms and open eyes yeah
Whatever tomorrow brings, I'll be there, I'll be there
Would you choose water over wine
Hold the wheel and drive
Whatever tomorrow brings, I'll be there
With open arms and open eyes yeah
Whatever tomorrow brings, I'll be there, I'll be there

Gig listings - February

Sat 1st

Opus Trees
@ Tap n Tin

London band – Impact
Medway Modernists
@ Command House

Scapa Flow
@ The Cricketers
Gillingham

Six Stage Suicide
+ 3DBs Down, Calling Nova
@ The Red Lion

Mon 3rd

Absent Minds +
Upcdownc + Fray
@ The Forum

Tues 4th

Opus Trees
@ Bull & Gate
Kentish Town, London

Fri 7th

TBC @ Command House

Sat 8th

Opus Trees
@ Command House

Softly Spoken Voice +
Ran.For.Days
+ As We Sleep
@ Oast House
7pm, £3 No Under 16s,
no ID no booze
Membership only

Many Colours
@ Tap n Tin

Fri 14th

Morgans Puff Adder
@ The Cherry Suites
Sittingbourne

Six Stage Suicide
+ Martin, MPA, Stoftype,
8–Ball & The Luddites
@ The Cherry Suite
Sittingbourne

Raiders of the Lost
Groove
@ Command House

Sat 15th

Six Stage Suicide
@ Tap n Tin

Weds 19th

Maker
@ Dublin Castle,
Camden

Fri 21st

The Labels
@ Command House
(see p6)

Sat 22nd

The Crimea + El Padre
@ 45 Club at Tap n Tin

Bonsai Resevoir event
with DJs
@ Command House

Tues 25th

Morgans Puff Adder
@ The Hope & Anchor
Islington

Weds 26th

Upcdownc
@ The Water Rats
London (see p's 4 & 5)
*(Gray's Inn Road,
London
King's X tube)

Fri 28th

Abinger Drive
@ Command House
(see p 8)

Club listings - February

Feb 15th
Stimul8 @ Pulse
10 till L8
Vinyl junkies 6 hr set
£7 on door, £5 members

Fri 28th Feb @ Tap
[re:play] 2nd birthday
Beats, breaks, jazz, funk, soul...

Feb 22nd
Bang @ Pulse
every 4th sat of the month
79 High Street, Chatham
Techno, Psychedelic, Funk & House
£7 on door, £5+free membshp with a flyer
Pete Bang, Claire H'unny, Mr Rossi & Warped Weirdo

The Modernists
Bar M
Each Thursday
£1 entry **MOD**

Subsonic
The Manor Club
Each Friday
£5 entry **alt/rock/indie**

* **IMPORTANT** * ***Gig listings are published free of charge.***

Email details of your event to mmexpress@lycos.co.uk. If you intend to turn up at one of the events listed, please phone the venue and confirm the band and date.

The Forum
Fonthill
Tunbridge Wells

Union Bar
1-9 Pudding Lane
Maidstone
01622 753041

The Royal Albion
Havock Lane
Maidstone
01622 691789

Jazz & Soul Cafe
110 Week Street
Maidstone
01622 751415

Tap n Tin
24 Railway Street
Chatham
01634 847926

Bar M
3 New Road
Chatham
01634 818333

The Walnut Tree
234 Tonbridge Rd
Maidstone
01622 727260

The Barge
Layfield Road
Gillingham
01634 850485

Red Lion
Crete Hall Road
Northfleet
01474 566127

Oast House
Granary Close
Rainham
01634 374684

Check out the following websites for gig and clubbing updates:
www.mnmbands.0catch.com www.medwaymusic.net
www.skinchimney.com

Cool Kit
Yamaha DTXpress II

So, what did you buy and how much was it?

I got a Yamaha DTXpress II electronic drum-kit. It retails for about £879, but shop around online and you can get it for nearer £700.

Give us a quick rundown of the features.

Okay. It's got 10 input jacks for the pads, and a hi-hat controller jack, a 16-bit tone generator, a 2 track sequencer for recording songs, 95 preset songs to play along with and also space for 32 user made songs, 48 preset drum-kits and space for another 32 user kits, a total of 928 drum and percussion sounds and 128 keyboard voices, MIDI input and output, stereo jack outputs, AUX input and a headphone jack, a three zone snare pad (you can actually do rim-shots) and a two zone ride cymbal, they make a different sound depending on where you hit them.

Last time I saw an electronic drum-kit was in the 80s. It only had one preset kit sound and that was pants! What's so good about this one?

You can position all the pads and "cymbals" exactly where you want them, the pads feel pretty real so it's not weird going from my acoustic kit to the Yamaha. You can make up your own kits out of 928 drum sounds and change the tone, pitch, reverb etc. You can get some really cool Dance/Industrial sounds or mimic pretty much any acoustic kit you want. This thing is GREAT for recording whether in the studio or on a computer in your bedroom. I used it in a studio recently and it was a god-send, it folds almost flat and didn't need to be miked-up or have the levels checked. You just plug in and go. It plugs straight into the back of a PC too.

The kit means I can now practice drumming without pissing off every neighbour in a 5 mile radius (I love that headphone socket) and when I'm learning songs, I plug a CD player into the auxiliary input and play along.

It also wakes you up in the morning with a cup of tea.

Wow! Really?

No. I lied about that bit,

but it's about the only way I can think of to improve it!

Any bad points?

I suppose the price would be the main thing to put people off. Other than that, getting everything in the right place can get a bit fiddly, swapping bits over etc., but it's worth it. I've only had it about a month, and haven't found a lot wrong so far.

Would you say it's value for money?

I'd say it depends what you'll use it for and how often. For me, I'd have to say definitely. It's compact, you get a lot of features, versatility, portability, the chance to practice quietly, and ease of recording.

Verdict?

It's the flaming nut-sac of Babylon. Nuff said.

I was somewhat dismayed to see your review of Scarab in the last issue of MME and that you appeared to think of it as less than perfect. Scarab are a great band and full of talent, especially the bassist.
I think he's lovely.

Anon

P.s I think their CD should go in the Tap n Tin's jukebox.

Scarab are a nice bunch of lads indeed Anon! No hard feelings eh boys? Here's your ad...
A drummer is required for Chatham based rock band, Scarab. Influences range from Blink 182 to Metallica. Must have own transport, age 20+. Call Mike on 0773 009 3077 for more details.

Lost Bassist

MARK - You auditioned for my band at the Fleur and didn't hear from me after that. I've lost your phone number. Give me a call!
Simon 01634 300926 or 07759 627254.

Local Hero Records Opening

Local Hero Records is launched on Saturday 15th February. It will be one of Kent's largest independent record stores that will give Kent bands and musicians of all genres the opportunity to directly promote their self-produced CD's through in-store performances on a purpose built stage.
All you need to do is get in touch with Chris Hahn of Local Hero Records Ltd on 07946 296 435. You will need to supply:
- Up to 10 CDs suitably packaged for sale
- One page A4 biography to include contact/booking details

On delivery of your CDs they will provide a written record of what you have supplied and terms & conditions. They operate on a sale-or-return basis with 60% of the proceeds going to you and 40% retained by Local Hero Records.
You will get:
* The chance to perform in store
* Regular monthly sales reports
* A top selling run-down (chart)
* Personal invitations to A&R reps and media reporters for performances.

Ali aims for a deal

Local singer/songwriter Ali English has released her demo CD which she will be presenting to record companies. Best described as acoustic rock, style influences include Avril Lavigne and Alanis Morrisette. Her three track demo is £4 and is available from Sounds Perfect in Chatham and Magic Discs, Gillingham.
Ali is interested to hear from any musicians interested in collaboration on songwriting/performances.
Call Ali on 0774 863 2038

Bass For Sale + Tuition

Yamaha Nathan East Signature 5-string bass with fitted hardcase. Versatile tone and good looks! £950 ovno
Trace Elliot 715 Combo with fitted flightcase £600 ono
- Bass tuition available, any proficiency...
Call Steve on 07880 593 998 / 01634 854 735

29 yr old singer/songwriter/ guitarist looking for his band, to record CD and perform live.
Looking for guitarists, bass and drums. Rock music to the core, no nu-metal. Influences inc. early G'n'R, Foos, Metallica, P Jam, Aerosmith & Led Zepplin. Enthusiasm, GSHOH, any age.
Call Tyn on 07799 178764

Contacts page

This feature aims to help you find out about local bands and help bands get in touch with people that can help them out in some way. If you want to be listed, call **Nicky on 0790 452 1923** or email details to **mmexpress@lycos.co.uk**

Bands:

Abinger Drive www.abingerdrive.com
Billy Childish (The Buff Medways) www.theebillychildish.com
Eightball www.eightball.sphosting.com
El Padre www.elpadre.co.uk
Fuzz www.fuzznroll.co.uk
Godless Reds www.godlessreds.co.uk
Lyca www.freewebs.com/lyca
Martin www.martin.uk.net
Morgan's Puff Adder www.morganspuffadder.com
One Day Elliott www.onedayelliott.co.uk
Orphan www.orphanweb.net
Opus Trees www.opustrees.co.uk
Scapa Flow www.scapa-flow.net
Six Stage Suicide www.sixstagesuicide.com
The Gilt Trip www.thegilttrip.com
TSL www.tslweb.co.uk
UKPornstar www.ukpornstar.pwp.blueyonder.co.uk
UpCDownC www.upcdownc.com

Band Manager's/ Promoters:

Vic Wintergreen (PA & recorded sound) email vwp.sounds@virgin.net

Linda Warwick (also band liason for MM2K) 07703 308379 email lindawarwick45@hotmail.com

Claire Chisnall (also runs MnM Bands site) 07790 140442 email clairefun@sexmagnet.com

Gig guides and local music information:

MnM Bands www.mnmbands.0catch.com
MM2K (organisers of Parklife) www.medwaymusic.net, email Chairman Jay Allen on jayallen@medwaymusic.net
Parklife Festival www.parklifefestival.org.uk
Skin Chimney www.skinchimney.com

Sell your bands CD's:

Magic Disc Records, Skinner Street, Gillingham. Call Mick or Dov on 01634 281596

Industry advice:

One Music at Radio 1 www.bbc.co.uk/radio1/onemusic
Sony Music www.sonymusic.co.uk

Designers:

Rorschok (CD Artwork, Websites, Posters, Flyers & Promotional Photography) Email info@rorschok.com or call Carl Jeffrey on 07929 601737

If you would like BACK ISSUES OF MME, email Nicky on mmexpress@lycos.co.uk or text 0790 452 1923. There is a charge of 50p per copy to cover costs.

Issue 1 – Glastonbury review, including Ikara Colt, Dandy Warhols, Garbage, Jools Holland, The White Stripes, Faithless, Manu Chao, Badly Drawn Boy & Roger Waters. Doves, Yeah Yeah Yeahs & Six Stage Suicide CD reviews.The Parkinsons Interview. Introducing Six Stage Suicide, Empathy & The Gilt Trip.

Issue 2 –Parklife review, including The Buff Medways, Sugar Coma, The James Taylor Quartet, Bonzai Resevoir, Six Stage Suicide, The Gilt Trip. Ozric Tentacles Interview. Introducing Fuzz, Bonzai Resevoir & Abinger Drive. Maker, Abinger Drive & Morgan's Puff Adder CD reviews.

Issue 3 – UK Pornstar, El Padre, Morgan's Puff Adder, Opus Trees. Introducing Morgan's Puff Adder, One Day Elliott & Orphan. The Dogs Bollox compilation and Fuzz CD reviews. Making a demo.

Issue 4 – Eightball, Muttley's Dastardly Scam, Ye Wiles, The Gilt Trip, Six Stage Suicide & Scapa Flow reviewed. Introducing Upcdownc and Sole Street, Orphan's 'TV Adore' review. How to be a great drummer.

Issue 5 – Godless Reds, Shag Monroes, Scarab, El Padre, Opus Trees, Sole Street & Many Colours reviewed. How to be a great bassist.

Issue 6 – The Buff Medways, The A-Lines, Opus Trees, Raiders of the Lost Groove, DJ Mr Rossi, Eric Goes Fishing & The Tar Babies reviewed. Introducing Two Stone Shoes. How to be a great frontman.

If you would like copies of the magazine to hand out at gigs, please contact us.

mme pixies

Nixta - Ikea Queen
Martin C - Big in Japan
Amy - Little sis
Ali E - Fluff mistress
Simon E - Rhythm master

Get in touch if you would like to review bands, write a feature, take pictures, draw pictures, be in a band, have a moan about Medway's music scene,talk2 any of the above. Nicky at .....**mmexpress@lycos.co.uk**

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